

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 7, and 12 remain in the application and have been amended hereby with claims 2-5, and 8-11 having been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, and 6 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Mizutani et al.

In paragraph 4 of the instant official action claim 4 was indicated as setting forth allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended hereby to include claim 4 in its entirety. Claim 4 has been canceled.

Therefore, by the reason of the inclusion of the allowable subject matter in claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 6 are patentably distinct over the cited reference.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 7-9, 11, and 12 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over the so-called admitted prior art in view of Mizutani et al.

In paragraph 4 of the instant official action, claim 10 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 7 has been amended hereby to include the allowable

subject matter of claim 10. Claim 10 has been canceled.

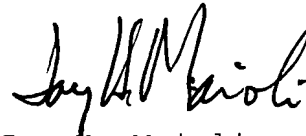
Therefore, by reason of the inclusion of the allowable subject matter in claim 7, it is respectfully submitted that claims 7 and 12 are patentably distinct over the cited references, alone or in combination.

By reason of the inclusion of the allowable subject matter in the independent claims in this application it is respectfully submitted that all claims remaining in this application are now in condition for allowance.

The reference cited as of interest has been reviewed and is not seen to show or suggest the present invention, as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "J" and a cursive "H".

Jay H. Maioli
Reg. No. 27, 213

JHM:tb